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NANTYGLO & BLAINA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR 1955

NANTYGLO & BLAINA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
1954

Chairmen	Councillor W.H.Silk, J.P.,	(To May 1955)
	Councillor D. James, J.P.,	(To May 1956)
NORTH WARD.	Councillor D. James, J.P.,	
	" J.H.Durban.	
	" Mrs. S.E.Lewis.	
	" E.G.Evans.	
	" W.E.Stokes.	
CENTRAL WARD.	" J.H.Dally.	
	" B.Thomas.	
	" W.H.Silk.	
	" J.Jones.	
	" E.A.Davies.	
SOUTH WARD.	" A.J.Robins.	
	" F. Axford.	
	" G.Jelly.	
	" B.R.Wakely.	
	" W.T.Chard	

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairmen.	Councillor W. Yemm.	(To May 1955)
	" W.T.Chard.	(To May 1956)

and Members of the Council.

Clerk of the Council	- G. Roy Jenkins, LL.B.
Chief Financial Officer	- E.J.Helt.
Engineer & Surveyor	- G.D.Barnes.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health	- Dr. J. Walters Bowen, M.B., B.Ch., B.Sc., D.P.H..
Senior Sanitary Inspector	- F.D.Collier, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A..
Additional Sanitary Inspector	- D.J.Herrington.
Rodent Officer	- E.E.Wilkins.

NANTYGLO & BLAINA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

I have the honour to present my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the year 1955.

The tables are self explanatory.

It will be seen that once again there have been no cases of Diptherial notified annualy.

1941 - 17	1946 - 3	1951 - 0
1942 - 42	1947 - 0	1952 - 0
1943 - 7	1948 - 0	1953 - 0
1944 - 1	1949 - 0	1954 - 0
1945 - 0	1950 - 0	1955 - 0

These figures are proof of the efficiency of active immunisation combined with general public health measures. It is fervently hoped that similar results will be obtained with B.C.G. vaccination in the case of Tuberculosis.

Regarding Tuberculosis the Nantyglo and Blaina District is served by the Chest Clinic at Blaina Hospital held on Tuesdays.
This Clinic is for the clinical examination , X-raying, skin testing of suspected cases and for the contacts of known cases.

All newly notified cases of Tuberculosis are visited by the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector and a complete environment report is sent to the Council Medical Officer and the Chest Physician. Continual contact is made with the latter particularly where it is felt that bad housing conditions and other factors make it necessary for some cases to receive priority in admission to sanitarium. Where houses defects are found the Sanitary Inspector takes up the matter with the owner of such premises.

Advice is given on the Medical Officer's visit reprevention of spread of infection in the home and this is further enlarged by the visit of the Health Visitor.

The members of the household where a case has occured are advised to attend the Chest Clinic for skin test and X-ray.

The Public Health Department supplies a liberal quantity of disin fectant for case in cleaning sputam receptacles and infected linen of the patient and terminal disinfectant is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector as required.

There is aldo the availability of skin testing of all children up to age 5 at the Infant Welfare Centres and it is hoped that in the very near future the same will be available for school children.

This latter is available for school leavers and any suspicious case is referred after preliminary X-ray to the Chest Physician.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area of District.	3,862 acres.
Estimate of Population 1921	16,453
" " " 1931	13,190
" " " 1941	12,440
" " " 1945	11,410
" " " 1947	11,460
" " " 1948	11,410
" " " 1949	11,490
" " " 1950	11,500
" " " 1951	11,340
" " " 1952	11,290
" " " 1953	11,240
" " " 1954	11,220
" " " 1955	11,120
Number of Inhabited Houses	3,272
Rateable Value of the District	£37,113
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£113

Vital Statistics.

Number of Births			143
Legitimate Births	Boys 68	Girls	68
Illegitimate Births	Boys 48	Girls	3
Birth Rate per 1,000 of population			12.85
" " " " " (Mon County).			15.29
" " " " " England & Wales.			15.0
Number of Still Births	Boys 4	Girls	3
Still Births per 1,000 of population			0.62
" " " " " (Mon County)			0.51
" " " " " Englan & Wales			0.34
Number of Deaths	Males 79	Females	135
Death Rate per 1,000 of population			12.14
" " " " " (Mon County)			12.20
" " " " " England & Wales.			,11.1

NUMBER OF BIRTHS IN THE DISTRICT, SHOWING WARD DISTRIBUTION AND MONTH OF OCCURRENCE DURING 1955

MONTH.	Male	Female	Total	Quarterly Births.	North	Central	South
JANUARY	3	6	9	-	3	2	4
FEBRUARY	7	5	12	-	5	6	1
MARCH	6	5	11	32	6	4	1
APRIL	4	6	10	-	3	1	6
MAY	6	8	14	-	4	5	5
JUNE	1	6	7	31	2	3	2
JULY	9	5	14	-	6	5	3
AUGUST	1	3	4	-	2	-	2
SEPTEMBER	10	8	18	36	10	6	2
OCTOBER	3	3	6	-	1	5	-
NOVEMBER	2	4	6	-	1	4	1
DECEMBER	2	3	5	17	1	2	2
TOTAL -	54	62	116	116	44	43	29

The above table does not include births at the Blaina and District Hospital which are transferable to other areas.

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DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES DURING THE YEAR 1955

DISEASE.	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Tuberculosis Respiratory	3	-	3
Meningo-cocal Infections	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	3	4	7
Malignant Neoplasm Breast	-	-	-
" " Uterus	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm lung, bronchus	1	-	1
Other malignant & Pymphatic neoplasm	4	7	11
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	13	7	20
Coronary disease angina	21	10	31
Hypertension with heart disease	3	4	7
Other heart diseases	3	7	10
Other circulatory diseases	3	2	5
Pneumonia	5	1	6
Bronchitis	3	3	6
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	1	1
Gastritis Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	-	1
Nephritis	1	3	4
Congenital Malformations	-	2	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	4	12
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	-	2
All other accidents	1	1	2
Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	2
Suicide	1	-	1
TOTAL.	79	56	135

TABLE

SHOWING MONTHLY NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS (ALL FORMS)
FOR THE YEAR 1955

WITH WARD DISTRIBUTION

MONTH OF YEAR	PULMONARY		PULMONARY		TOTAL	NORTH	CENTRAL	SOUTH
	MALES	FEMALES	MALES	FEMALES				
JANUARY	2	–	–	–	2	1	1	–
FEBRUARY	1	1	–	–	2	2	–	–
MARCH	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	1
APRIL	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
MAY	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
JUNE	1	–	–	–	1	–	1	–
JULY	–	1	–	–	1	–	–	1
AUGUST	2	–	–	–	2	–	2	–
SEPTEMBER		–	–	–	–	–	–	–
OCTOBER	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
NOVEMBER	1	–	–	–	1	–	1	–
DECEMBER	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
TOTAL	8	2	–	–	10	3	5	2

TABLE

INSTITUTIONS	ADMISSIONS		DISCHARGES	
	MALES	FEMALES	MALES	FEMALES
CHEST UNIT	-	1	1	1
CEFN MABLY HOSPITAL	1	-	-	-
CRAIG Y NOS	-	-	-	1
TALGARTH	1	-	2	-
SULLY HOSPITAL	-	-	-	3
CHEPSTOW	-	-	-	-
PEN-Y-CAE	-	-	-	-
GELLIGAER	-	2	-	8
LLANGWYFAN	-	-	-	1
ENTRGLYN HOSPITAL	-	2	-	1
TOTAL	2	5	3	15

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE 1955

	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942
Number of Deaths Under 1 Year.	6	7	5	11	5	10	12	12	16	9	12	16	9	11
Number of Births	143	172	196	209	179	208	205	233	240	225	203	217	219	223

PARTICULARS OF DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER 1 YEAR

UNDER 1 WEEK - 4

1 - 2 WEEKS -

2 - 3 WEEKS -

3 - 4 WEEKS - 1

1 - 3 MONTHS -

3 - 6 MONTHS - 1

6 - 9 MONTHS -

9 -12 MONTHS -

TOTAL NUMBER OF BIRTHS - 143

TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS -
TOTAL NUMBER UNDER ONE YEAR - 6

MORTALITY RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS 40.8

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

DISEASE	Age not known.	Under 1 Yr.	1 - 2 years	3 - 4 years	5 - 9 years	10-14 yrs.	15-44 yrs.	45-64 yrs.	65 and over	Age Unknown	TOTAL
SCARLET FEVER	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
PNEUMONIA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WHOOPING COUGH	1	-	1	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	8
PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	4	-	10
POLIOMYELITIS	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTALS.	1	=	2	4	3	-	5	1	4	-	20

DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS CASES ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

	Under 1 Yr.	1 - 2 years	2 - 3 yrs.	3 - 4 yrs.	4 - 5 yrs.	5 -10 yrs.	10-15 yrs.	15 - 20 yrs	20-35 Yrs.	35-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	65 & over.	TOTAL	No. admitted to Hospital.
SCARLET FEVER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PNEUMONIA	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	6	-
WHOOPING COUGH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	7
POLIOMYELITIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTALS.	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	8	8

ANALYSIS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACCORDING TO WARDS AND DISTRICTS.

DISEASE	WARDS				DISTRICTS		
	NORTH	CENTRAL	SOUTH	TOTAL	NANTYGLO	BLAINA	TOTAL
SCARLET FEVER	1	–	–	1	1	–	1
WHOOPING COUGH	1	5	2	8	1	7	8
PNEUMONIA	1	–	–	1	1	–	1
TOTALS	3	5	2	10	3	7	10

W A T E R S U P P L Y.

The water supply of this district is supplied in bulk by the Ebbw Vale District Council. The Service reservoir being situated at Llangynidr Mountain Beaufort. The water is chlorinated and is filtered by slow sand filters.

The new water system is now in operation.

There are still houses within the district however without an adequate supply of water, this appears to be due to the private services being corroded.

1. (a) Approximate number of houses supplied from public mains direct. - 3,259.

   (b) By means of stand pipes. - 3.

2. Approximate population supplied from public mains - 11,100.

WATER SAMPLES TAKEN DURING THE YEAR.

Six samples from the main supply were taken for bacteriological examination during the year. All were found to be satisfactory.

SWIMMING BATH.

At present there are no publicly or privately owned swimming baths in the area,

During the summer months the ponds in the district are still used, in spite of the fact that they are dangerous and are quite unfit to be used as swimming pools.

DRAINAGE.

Drainage - sewerage is on the water carriage system. The subsidiary sewers are connected up with the Western Valley (Mon) Main Trunk Sewer, which discharges into the sea at low water west of the mouth of the river Usk.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Public Cleansing and refuse collection is controlled by the Council's Engineer & Surveyor.

Refuse is deposired at the Forge Site, Nantyglo.

Although there is a collection of refuse three times a week, householders in the area, despite warning, still deposit their refuse on open spaces near their homes. This, in my opinion, will not be remedied until there is more co-operation between all concerned, and each householder has suitable refuse bins.

The Council during the year a ain spent considerable time in removing dumps of ashes which had been tipped on unauthorised sited.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Meat Inspection.

Early in the year the meat inspector terminated his appointment, and no one was appointed in his place. Meat from Brynmawr Slaughterhouse was therefore being distributed without prior inspection.

No records of animals slaughtered are available and meat inspection was confined to the examination of meat and offal in the butchers shops throughout the district.

Fortunately the percentage of meat condemned during these visits was very small.

H O U S I N G.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Act, 1936) 126

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose. 126

(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses included under (1) above which were inspected and recorded under th Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925-1932. 134

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose. 134

(3) Number of dwellings found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation. 10

(4) Number of dwellings houses exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.

11. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. 24

111 . Action under the Statutory Powers during the year:

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, 11, 12, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. Nil.

(2) Number of Closing Orders served. 1

(3) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice.

(a) By Owners. Nil.
(b) By Local Authority. Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 10

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:

(a) By Owners. 3
(b) By the Authority in default of Owner. Nil.

H O U S I N G

	Temporary		Permanent
	Number Dec. 31st, 1951	1953	
1. Numberof houses owned by Local Authority on the 31st. Dec. 1955	50	49	534
2. Total number of houses erected during the year.			
(a) By Local Authority			26
(b) By private Enterprise			1
3. Number of local authority houses in course of erection on the 31st Dec. 1955			30
4. Number of houses which sanction has been given but which had not been commenced on the 31st., December, 1955			32
5. Housing Act, 1949.			
(a) Number of Grants, 1955			Nil.
(b) Amount of Grants, 1955			Nil.
(c) Number of Loans, 1955			63
(d) Amount of Loans, 1955			£22063.
(e) Total number of Grants under Act, 1949-53 (inclusive)			Nil.
(f) Total amount " " " "			Nil.
(g) Total number of Loans " "			166
(h) Total amount " " " "			£52,363.

SHOPS ACT 1950.

No action has been found necessary during the year under provisions of the Shops Act, 1950.

A part-time Shops Inspector officiates in the area.

MARINE STORES.

There are five registered Marine Stores in the District. These are insepcted periodically.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

The above regulations came into force on the 1st November, 1951.

No rag flock is made or sold in this area.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

Number of Factories on Register December, 1953	- 19
Number of inspections.	- 9

WRITTEN NOTICES.

(1) Want of cleanliness	- Nil.
(2) Insufficient sanitary conveniences	- Nil.

RODENT CONTROL.

(Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.)

There is a full time Rodent Officer employed in the Sanitary Inspectors Department. The table on the following page shows the work on rodent control carried out during the year.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949
REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st Dec,1955

	Type of Property.				
	Local Authority.	Dwelling Houses inc. Coun. Houses	All other including Business & Industrial.	Totals of cols (1) (2) & (3)	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District (Notes 1 & 2)	12	3252	138	3402	16
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of: (a) Notification	–	46	16	62	–
(b) Survey under the Act.	12	901	83	996	12
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	–	–	–	–	–
3. Total inspections carried out including re-inspections (to be completed only if figures are readily available)	12	947	99	1058	12
4. Number of properties inspected (in Sec. 11) which were found to be infested by: (a) Rats Major	–	–	–	–	–
Minor	–	82	7	89	–
(b) Mice Major	–	–	–	–	
Minor	–	54	9	63	–
5. Number of infested properties (in Sec. IV) treated by the L.A. (Figures should Not exceed those given at Sec. IV)	–	136	16	152	–
6. Total treatments carried out-including re-treat-ments (To be completed only if figures are readily available)	–	–	–	–	–
7. Number of notices served under Sec.4 of the Act. (a) Treatment	–	–	–	–	–
(b) Structural Work (i,e.Proofing)	–	–	–	–	–
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a Notice under Sect 4 of the Act.	–	–	–	–	–
9. Legal Proceddings	–	–	–	–	–
10. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	–	3	–	3	–

MILK SUPPLY.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS 1949.

(a) Number of persons registered as milk distributors. 9

(b) Number of dealers' issued authorising the use of special designation, "Pasteurised". 9

(c) Number of dealers' licences issued authorising the use of special designation, "pasteurised"(Tuberculin Tested) 9

All milk sold in the area is imported into the district by means of road and rail transport, and is distributed in bottled.

The following milk samples were taken during the year.

	Pasteurised.	(Tuberculin Tested & Pasteurised)	Total.
No. of samples taken	7	5	12
Satisfactory	7	5	12
Unsatisfactory	-	-	-

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT)

REGULATIONS 1947

There are in the area Twenty five premises registered for the sale of manufacture of Ice Cream.

They are as follows:-

1. Manufacture and sale:
   - Heat Treatment 1
   - Complete cold mix 1

2. Premises registered for the Sale of Ice Cream 23

Total 25

With the exception of the two local manufactures, all Ice Cream is imported into the district and is prepacked.

During the year 21 samples were taken, the results were as follows:

Number of samples taken,	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4.
21	13	5	3	-

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD PREMISES AND LICENCED PREMISES.

Periodic visits are paid to Fried Fish Shops, Bakehouses, Butchers Shops, Food Preparing premises, Licenced premises and Provisions Stores.

1. The Number of food premises in the area are:-

(a)	Fish Frying Premises	4
(b)	Butchers Shops	14
(c)	Bakeries	4
(d)	General Provisions	24
(e)	Green Grocers	11
(f)	Grocers	20
(g)	Fishmongers	7
(h)	Cooked meat	1
(i)	Confectionery	8
	Total.	93

2. Number of Food Premises registered under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938 — 15

3. Number of Inspections of Registered Food premises. — 89

4. Disposal of Condemned Food - Disposed by means of burial on Council refuse tips.

In concluding this report, I must express satisfaction at the work carried out generally in the Nantyglo & Blaina District Area, during the period covered by these reports, and take this opportunity of thanking Members of the Council Mr. F.D.Collier, Senior Sanitary Inspector and my Colleagues for general co-operation.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

J.WALTERS BOLEN.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.